

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 SY-05 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT, LY

SUBJECT: THE LIBYANS IN PANTELLERIA

1. IN LATE 1974 IT WAS REPORTED LIBYANS HAD PURCHASED A SIZE-
ABLE PIECE OF ITALIAN ISLAND OF PANTELLERIA, BETWEEN SICILY
AND TUNISIA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A LIBYAN TOURIST INTER-
ESTS HAD ACQUIRED 150 ACRES OF MOUNTAIN LAND OVERLOOKING PROP-
ERTY BEING DEVELOPED "BY NATO". THE SITE COMMANDS THE SMALL
AIRPORT AND FACES MONTAGNA GRANDE ON WHICH A HIGH-POWERED
RADAR WAS INSTALLED SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER. A NATO-FINANCED
RADAR STATION ON THE ISLAND IS PROGRAMMED FOR THIS YEAR.

2. WHILE VISITING NATO DIRECTORATE AT MFA, EMBOFF FOUND HIM-
SELF ON MARGIN OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN DIRECTOR SALLEO AND
MFA MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR ATTOLICO. ATTOLICO INDICATED THAT
INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT TO PREFECT OF TRAPANI, SICILY
(UNDER WHOM PANTELLERIA FALLS), THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
SHOULD LIBYANS (THOUGH THEY HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY ACQUIRED LAND
LEGALLY) BE PERMITTED TO BUILD ANYTHING ON IT. ATTOLICO MADE
CLEAR THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SECURITY MATTER. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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